

The Truth of God is in the Bible
By Greg Rangel

One of the frequent things that we see in the Gospels is the fact that Jesus taught the people. Mark 1:21-22 says this; *“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the Sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he **taught** them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”*

Jesus was a true Shepherd. He cared for the sheep. He did not feed them hay and stubble. He fed them the Word of God. He **taught** them the Word of God. He knew what gave them life. It was His Word. Mark 6:34 also says; *“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.”*

Jesus knew that the Pastors had failed to teach them the Word. The people were dying of hunger. That was a problem that had occurred throughout the history of the nation of Israel. The religious Jews had failed to teach the people the Word of God as they were commanded by Moses in Deut. 4:14 where he wrote; *“And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.”*

Even though the religious Jews still had an appearance of being faithful believers in the Lord, they were proclaiming things that were not part of the Word of God. By that they were prophesying lies. The prophet Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 2:8; *“The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.”*

Unfortunately what was happening back then is still happening today. Pastors are failing to teach the Word of God. They are not fulfilling their calling! Instead of leading the congregation in a very well prepared and studied Bible study, they will lead them in a “feel good” sermon with which they will try to touch the emotions of the individuals.

Pastors have not been called to have a luxurious career where the only sweating that takes place is on Sunday mornings as they walk up and down the stage while they scream up a storm with a shaky voice like if they are about to cry. Pastors have been called to “feed” the sheep. That is, to “teach” the Word of God because the truth of God is in the Bible.

The Lord said in Jeremiah 12:10-12; *“Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it desolate, and being desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart.”*

I believe that today many Pastors need to stop teaching humanistic philosophy and Psychology from Americas pulpits, and start teaching the Word, the WHOLE Word, and nothing but the Word. Pastors need to stop feeding hay and stubble to their flocks. Pastors need to stop teaching filth and lies to their people and start teaching the Word of God once again. Pastors need to stop teaching their people that it's O.K. to run around like crazy all over the sanctuary, and hit the

floor and shake and bake, or bark like dogs, or make various types of animal noises, because IT IS NOT! That has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit. That is a sign of a weak church that does not teach the Word. This type of church is typified like a dry leaf that is carried by the wind to and fro. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:14 *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every **wind** of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”*

When a Pastor fails to teach the Word to his congregation, his church will fall for any little false doctrine that the enemy will bring their way. And unfortunately that is a common problem among churches today. Many within those churches don't know what to believe because they are not being the Word of God book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse.

1.1). **See** Jeremiah 23:1-6

1.2). **See** Ezequiel 34:1-16

a). **See** John 10:7-18

A.2).

1). The reason that Pastors allow their churches to do that is because they are not teaching them the Word of God. Yes they will quote 1 or 2 verses throughout the service, but the rest of the service sounds like a madhouse. Pastors need to feed the Word of God to their congregations.

1.1). **See** Hosea 4:1-6

1.2). John 8:31-32 *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

2). Throughout the Scriptures we are commanded to teach the Word of God.

2.1). Mat 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

2.2). Act 5:42 *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to **teach** and preach Jesus Christ.”*

2.3). 1Ti 1:3 “*As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach** no other doctrine.*”

2.4). **See** Acts 20:17-32

Mark 1

1.1). It is very well known fact that many of the Pastors that are behind the American pulpits do not even believe in the essentials of the historic Christian faith.

a). For example, many do not believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, that is, without errors.

a.1). Expound: Caesar salad.

b). Many Pastors do not believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

b.1). Expound: Symbolic

c). Many Pastors do not believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ.

d). Many do not believe that Jesus physically died and atoned for our sins.

e). Many Pastors do not believe in the physical return of Jesus Christ.

f). And of course, many Pastors do not believe in Heaven or hell or eternal life!

Mark 1

vs. 14 Between verse 13-14 one year takes place. John 1:19—4:42 covers that.

A. Now John the Baptist was a man with no compromise. His message was straight and forward. He told it like it is. He was in today's terms, a right wing, Bible thumper, fire and brimstone, hateful and judgemental, un-politically in-correct person. The media would try to eat him alive because of his message.

A.1). **See** Matthew 3:1-10

1). Too sad that today's church is not like John the Baptist. On the contrary, many of today's Pastor's and preachers are so afraid of the media and the people that they have watered down the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1.1). Listen to an interview a famous preacher had with Larry King Live:

"KING: Is—have you always believed?

OSTEEN: I have always believed. I grew up, you know, my parents were a good Christian people. They showed us love in the home. My parents were the same in the pulpit as they were at home. I think that's where a lot of preachers' kids get off base sometimes. Because they don't see the same things at both places. But I've always believed. I saw it through my parents. And I just grew up believing. [Believing what?]

KING: But you're not fire and brimstone, right? You're not pound the decks and hell and damnation?

OSTEEN: No. That's not me. It's never been me. I've always been an encourager at heart. And when I took over from my father, he came from the Southern Baptist background, and back 40-50 years ago, there was a lot more of that. But, you know, I just—I don't believe in that. I don't believe—maybe it was for a time. But I don't have it in my heart to condemn people. I'm there to encourage them. I see myself more as a coach, as a motivator to help them experience the life God has for us.

KING: But don't you think if people don't believe as you believe, they're somehow condemned?

OSTEEN: You know, I think that happens in our society. But I try not to do that. I tell people all the time, preached a couple Sundays about it. I'm for everybody. You may not agree with me, but to me it's not my job to try to straighten everybody out. The Gospel is called the good news. My message is a message of hope, that's God's [message] for you. You can live a good life no matter what's happened to you. And so I don't know. I know there is condemnation, but I don't feel that's my place.

KING: You've been criticized for that, haven't you?

OSTEEN: I have. I have. Because I don't know.

KING: Good news guy, right?

OSTEEN: Yeah. But you know what? It's just in me . . .

.....

KING: But you have rules, don't you?

OSTEEN: We do have rules. But the main rule to me is to honor God with your life. To live a life of integrity. Not be selfish. You know, help others. But that's really the essence of the Christian faith.

KING: That we live in deeds?

OSTEEN: I don't know. What do you mean by that?

KING: Because we've had ministers on who said, your record don't count. You either believe in Christ or you don't. If you believe in Christ, you are, you are going to heaven. And if you don't, no matter what you've done in your life, you ain't.

OSTEEN: Yeah, I don't know. There's probably a balance between. I believe you have to know Christ. But I think that if you know Christ, if you're a believer in God, you're going to have some good works. I think it's a cop-out to say I'm a Christian but I don't ever do anything . . .

KING: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't accept Christ at all?

OSTEEN: You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know . . .

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?

OSTEEN: Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong. I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God with judge a person's heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. So I don't know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

1.2). That is just one example of what takes place behind the pulpits today. It is a very watered down gospel.

a). Listen to quotes from Dr. Robert Schuller from the Crystal Cathedral:

a.1). "Jesus knew his worth, his success fed his self-esteem.... He suffered the cross to sanctify his self-esteem. And he bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem. And the cross will sanctify the ego trip!"
(Living Positively One Day at a Time, p.201)

"A person is in hell when he has lost his self-esteem." (Self-Esteem, The New Reformation, pp.14-15)

"You don't know what power you have within you!... You make the world into anything you choose. Yes, you can make your world into whatever you want it to be." (Possibility Thinking: Goals,

Amway Corporation cassette tape)

The most effective mantras employ the "M" sound. You can get the feel of it by repeating the words, "I am, I am," many times over....

Transcendental Meditation or TM... is not a religion nor is it necessarily anti-Christian." (Peace of Mind Through Possibility

Thinking, pp. 131-32)

i). By the way, Dr. Schuller never calls people sinners. That goes against his positive preaching.